

VIKING SAGA

Class of 2016

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Taking a "gap year" is a terrible idea



MITCHELL EVANS
STAFF WRITER

What is life after high school? Students will go off to their next step in life—whether that is college, work, military, or even a gap year to help them figure things out. But have you ever thought about the negative repercussions of taking a gap year?

A gap year is when a student takes a year off between graduation and their next years of schooling. But, taking a gap year can hinder your desire to go back to school. You could lose the drive to go back to school, and you may never go to college.

Some say that they do it to take a break from schooling and gain some

money before going back to school, but then never do.

Other times, students may take the time off so that they could find a better college, but that is something they need to do their senior year.

Taking a gap year can also make it less likely that you will gain scholarships for college that you might have been guaranteed to get while in high school.

When students take a gap year, most people think that they will get a job and money for when they go to college. But most of the time when people make money, they spend it and forget to save it up. Then, they may say that they will work for another year to save the money again, but they will just keep repeating the cycle.

Taking a gap year is okay, if it is really what you want, but there could be a chance that you may never go back to school.

Taking a gap year can hurt you educationally and financially. You could lose some of the knowledge that college would have helped you retain from high school. There are a lot fewer scholarship opportunities and people to help guide you when you are not in high school.

So, my advice is: do not take a gap year. Some say that they will definitely go to college after that one year, but one can never be sure.

Don't take the gap year, and go to college right after high school. You'll be one step closer to being done with school and one step closer to doing something that you love.

Starting summer later would benefit us all



LACIE NELSON
CO-EDITOR

As the sweltering heat of the mid-August sun beats down on you through the window, you think about the fun of the State Fair and the waterslides at Island Oasis. Too bad: the pool is closed, and school's in session already. And, nobody's paying attention due to the fact that they'd rather be outside in the summer weather.

So why do we start school in the middle of August and end in the middle of May? There are various reasons, or rather myths, for the schedule to be the way it is. 1.) That it's the ideal weather for kids to be outside. 2.) That it's the best structure for sports seasons. 3.) Kids do farm work during this time. 4.) That is when kids can have jobs. None of these are actually correct. Currently the school year began August 13th, and it will end May 18th. It would be more practical for school to start at the end of August and end at the end of May.

The weather is still hot in the middle of August, and most kids would rather be outside tanning, swimming, camping, or doing other outdoor activities to make the most of their summer. There are at least two weeks left at the end of August, but if school ends in the middle of May, it has to start that early. Summer isn't in full swing until the end of May and the beginning of June, though—preventing the pools from opening until then. That's a lot of revenue that is lost for towns and cities. That aside, the State Fair happens at the end of August. Opportunities for teenagers to work and State Fair revenue are both lost because Nebraska schools are already in session.

Sports and activity schedules could be restructured

as well to be more convenient. Because school gets out so early, track has to end right in the middle of the most ideal weather—meaning that practice begins when the weather is particularly cold out, leaving students to freeze and work around "practice cancelled due to weather conditions." Football serves as another example. Because the football season has to begin so early, the practices are held in the blistering heat before school starts.

Many fall subject to the myth that school gets out during the ideal time for students to help out on the farm at home. This isn't the case. Putting up hay doesn't happen until the end of May at the earliest. Detasseling and roguing don't begin until June and July; so why have school get out before the summer even begins and start again before the summer ends? Summer opportunities for students don't begin that early, and they have to end much too soon.

Summer jobs are great for students as well, but with the current school schedule, the possibilities are limited drastically. Good seasonal jobs for students include: working at the State Fair, being a lifeguard, working at tourist attractions, roguing and detasseling, working at camps, golf caddying, concert venue workers, and lawn care—to name a few. Many of these jobs begin and end later than school does.

It makes more sense to adjust the school schedule to allow for students to have these opportunities and enjoy the "summer."

So, Nebraska School Systems, I propose that the school schedule be adjusted to fit the needs of teenagers. Not everything in life can be convenient, but when enough aspects of the issue will be impacted in a positive way by the change, the change is necessary.

VIKING SAGA

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Leaving staff reflects on time spent at Northwest

ALEX STOCKER
STAFF WRITER

In less than a week, students and staff will be leaving Northwest High School, some permanently. Staff members like Donna George, Stan Mills, Bonnie Brown, and Mike Shafer will be leaving Northwest when the final bell rings.

Brown will be moving to Lincoln to pursue a career as a Mental Health Therapist.

"I will be working as a Mental Health Therapist at Genesis Psychiatric in Lincoln," Brown said.

Brown has a lot of experience in education.

"I have been teaching high school English, speech and drama for 36 years with 16 years being at Northwest," Brown said.

Brown has had many memorable moments at Northwest.

"I have enjoyed the students and teachers while working at Northwest. I will miss the interaction with so many different people on a daily basis," Brown said.

Stan Mills has spent his entire teaching career at Northwest.

"I have taught science for 32 years, all at Grand Island Northwest," Mills said.

Northwest has left a positive impression on Mills.

"The Northwest community has been my home for my entire professional career. My children attended Northwest, and the experience

was very positive for them. It is a great educational system," Mills said.

Next year, Mills will still continue teaching.

"I have accepted a two year teaching contract at the SEV American College in Istanbul, Turkey. If I like the school, I will stay longer than two years," Mills said.

Similarly to Mills, Mike Shafer has spent most of his teaching career at Northwest.

"I have been teaching at Northwest for 21 years; I graduated from Northwest High School in 1971, and I even did my student teaching here at Northwest," Shafer said.

Shafer will miss many things about Northwest.

"I will miss it all: the staff, the students, teaching history, and coaching football. I feel so fortunate to have been able to spend my life here. I wish I could be younger and start all over again," Shafer said.

Next year Shafer plans to take it easy.

"I will still be running my slot cars shop. My wife and I will be doing some more traveling. Also, I will be participating in the National Veterans Awareness Ride, which takes place in Washington D.C. and focuses on the POW/MIA issue," Shafer said.

Special education teacher Donna George has a long history of teaching, though her time at Northwest has been relatively short.

"This is my 31st year of teaching, and I have



Retiring science teacher Stan Mills teaches dissection during biology class.

PHOTO BY LACIE NELSON

taught at Northwest for the past five years," George said.

George will miss many things at Northwest.

"I will miss my advisement kids the most.

I've had many of them since their freshman year. They are all an accomplished group who possess great character and are fun to be around," George said.

After retiring, George plans on traveling.

"My plans for next year are to see my grandson in Indiana a lot more, travel with my husband, and take a trip to China with my sister to see my nephew," George said.

New classes and class changes coming for next school year

AMANDA DECKER
STAFF WRITER

As the scheduling for the next school year began to take shape, some changes in classes and switches in teachers were apparent.

There will be a minor shake-up in the English department next year. Freshman and senior English teacher Darbie Mazour will be teaching a new class called Reading A, and she will be taking over Lit 11A.

"Reading A will be focusing on helping students learn how to read accurately, increase rate and fluency, build vocabulary, and respond to comprehension items. Being able to read is a skill that is fundamental to function in our society today," Mazour said.

Next year, speech and English teacher Jacki Papstein will be teaching Oral Communications, a new class, and AP English, formerly taught by Mazour.

"Oral communications is a class that helps build students' speaking skills in different areas: delivering solo presentations, working in pairs and small groups, and developing knowledge of other subjects within the world



Digital Media teacher Colleen Childers helps a student in class. Childers will be teaching Reality 101 next year.

PHOTO BY MITCHELL EVANS

of communications like nonverbal signals and interviewing," Papstein said.

A completely new class will be offered to help students handle life after high school. Next year, business teacher Diane Rouzee, math teacher Tim Koehn, media teacher Colleen Childers, and foods teacher Tamara Nelson will all be teaching a class called Reality 101.

"In Reality 101, students learn about renting an apartment, personal finance (credit cards, investing, incoming taxes, employment, etc)," Rouzee said.

Childers is excited for the new class and the many lessons it will offer.

"I think the class offers so much to students. This will be a life skills class that focuses on: personal finance, budgeting, independent living, careers and communications with others, relationships and health awareness, home maintenance, automotive, making major purchases, renting an apartment, and time management. These are all topics students have mentioned they need more information on before graduating and topics that will help them in whatever they decide to do after graduation," Childers said.

With this class, students will be divided and will rotate to each teacher during the semester. Teachers will help students put important papers and documents into organized files on a jump drive. Students can take these files with them when they graduate to use and benefit from wherever they go.

Students expand horizons at District music competition

LACIE NELSON
CO-EDITOR

Many teenagers are passionate about music, but how many of them are passionate about classical music? There are some that love classical music enough to take it to competition.

District music is a competition for different types of musical performances such as: vocal ensembles, instrumental ensembles, vocal solos, and instrumental solos. The musicians prepare "classical" pieces weeks in advance and practice them over and over until competition day.

"I probably started preparing my piece for district music about a month and a half early, but I ended up changing my song about three times before the final decision—leaving about a week and half left to prepare. Once I had the final decision made, I practiced it all the time. I'd hum it in class, listen to recordings and sing along in my car, basically anywhere I could get away from people. I ran through it with my accompanist maybe a total of five times. I did feel prepared because I have had a lot of experience and knew my music well," junior Lauren Gebhardt said.

However, practicing for District Music is more than getting the right words and hitting all the notes; students will be judged on tone, intonation, precision, technique, facility, balance, expression and interpretation, diction, and other factors [i.e. choice of music, discipline, stage presence, poise, feeling of ensemble, arrangements, musical variety, sequencing, pacing, showmanship, energy, facial projection, time/rhythmic feel, fills, back-up, instrumentation, accompaniment, effects,

grace, tuning, and memorization.]

"I just knew I had to show up, do my best, and sing for someone that will judge me on every little detail. I was a little bit scared and nervous. [I was] nervous I would mess up and

few performances before them and watch until it is their turn. Some students invite friends and family to watch and support them as they perform. Others prefer inviting as few people as possible.

"I did [invite my parents to watch me perform at District music] because it would be one of the only opportunities to have my parents see a solo performance of mine. But, they were unable to attend. Regardless, I was nervous because a few friends and Mr. Pfanstiel and [student teacher] Ms.[Morgan] Sentelle came to watch," sophomore Deanna Montanez-Mendoza said.

Once students have performed, they are rated with a division I, II, III, IV, or V—division I being the best. Students wait for their scores with anticipation and hope to get an "Honorable Mention" or "Outstanding Performer" award. Students are allowed to leave once they have performed, and their score and comment ballots will be sent to their directors later.

District music is a fun opportunity for many young musicians to get feedback from judges and get past performance anxiety. It is a day of good music, young talent, and musical growth.

"It went very smoothly, and I thought all the performances went well. [District music] absolutely [helps students grow in music.] Especially if they have a solo, because then they are taking a lot of the elements of learning the music on themselves. They meet with me or their private teacher occasionally, but most of the preparation is all on them, so it really allows them to grow as a musician and develop way better musicianship skills. It's a great experience for everybody. I think it's a fun experience, it's a little bit challenging, but I think it's good for the kids," band director Shawn Pfanstiel said.



Accompanist Cindy Coe is the accompanist for soloist singers for the district music competition.
PHOTO BY LACIE NELSON

do poorly or [my voice would] crack. [I was] scared because I didn't want to mess up or make a fool of myself and get a bad score. It didn't scare me as much...more like took me by surprise. I mean, in most cases, you just sing your pitch, and you don't really pay attention to much detail. But when you do this, it's a little more different. They base you off of the right notes, if you went too low or too high, if you went too loud or too soft, how long you held the note, if it was too long or not enough if you sang it right, and if there was vibrato in the right spots. They just paid attention to every little detail," junior Giovanna Lopez said.

Once District day rolls around, usually sometime in April, students prepare for their performance in their school's warm-up and homeroom. They enter the performance room a

FCCLA helps prepare its members for the future

AMANDA DECKER
STAFF WRITER

FCCLA is a nationally recognized club. The name stands for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America.

"In FCCLA, we give presentations at the District, State, and National levels including topics on how we can expand our leadership potential and develop skills necessary for life in communities, families, and the workplace," junior Tianna Nelson said.

Junior Amber Teutsch had never been to a state conference.

"It was in downtown Lincoln, so it was really fun to be able to walk to and from the hotel to the Pinnacle and to the other hotel where sessions were held," Teutsch said.

There was some entertainment there that students could attend.

"There are dances and movies. Going to a movie is a lot of fun,

especially when you get to meet people from different places in Nebraska," Nelson said.

Later in the year, members spend most of their time planning for District Conference.

"Currently we are starting a shoe drive to raise funds so we are also in the midst of that as well," Teutsch said.

In order to join, students must take a course in Family and Consumer Sciences. Anyone, from freshman to seniors, can take the class.

According to the Northwest FCCLA website, affiliated members can expect to receive Teen Times magazine and a membership card. Members will also receive all the privileges that come with being a member of the only Career and Technical student organization with family as its central focus—including participation in National Programs and STAR events.

Girls track raises the bar during this year's season

BRENDEN HOLLING
CO-EDITOR

In recent meets, the Northwest girls track team has opened eyes around the state. The team has won many meets and the individual performances are just as remarkable too.

According to Coach Brandon Harrington, the girls have dominated their meets.

"The girls have won all of their meets except the North Platte Invite where they got runner-up," said Harrington.

The individual performance from girls like senior Kayla Bachle and sophomore Karsen Sears have been equally impressive.

"Sears set the school record in the 200 meter dash with a time of 25.7 seconds. Bachle tied the school record in both hurdle events and set the school record in the long jump," Harrington said.

Sears, who was named the outstanding

female athlete of the Central Nebraska Track and Field Championships, has not only impressed her coaches but also herself.

"I won all three of my individual events at the CNTC meet. I feel pretty good about getting the recognition. I have worked hard this whole year to reach my goals and I have met most of those. But also you have to be humble about it," Sears said.

Sears hasn't met all of her goals and she wants to keep competing just as hard as she has been.

"My future goals are to make it to State every year that I'm in high school as well as place in my individual events at state. Also, I would like to break the school record in the 100 meter dash as well," Sears said.

Sears and Bachle are not the only ones that have gotten Harrington's attention.

"All of our girls have set personal records this year so far," Harrington said.

The season is soon coming to a close and Harrington wants to see the girls keep competing while also staying healthy at the same time.

"The girls still need to continue to improve and stay healthy as we move into District and State competitions," Harrington said.



Karsen Sears jumps into the sand pit while competing in the long jump at the David Gee Track Invite.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING YEARBOOK STAFF

Hey, York News-Times sports guy: Do you even golf, Bro?

BRENDEN HOLLING
CO-EDITOR



Recently, a sports writer for the *York News-Times* from York, Nebraska wrote a story fixing some errors that he had previously made earlier about York's boys golf team. Then inexplicably, he broke out and said that golf is an elitist sport and there are too many "unwritten rules" in the sport. That statement is completely false. I can understand why people do not like the sport. It's pretty slow-paced and there are tons of rules. But if your career deals with all sports, like this writer's, you have to learn how to respect each sport. Just because you don't necessarily enjoy the sport yourself, doesn't mean you get to bash the sport in its entirety.

The writer's first point on why he doesn't like golf is that there are many "unwritten rules," like you can't talk while someone is swinging or you can't walk between the ball and the hole when the player addresses the ball. Those aren't necessarily rules; they are more of a common courtesy. I'd compare

it to holding the door open for someone or saying please and thank you. Nobody is telling you do those things, but that is the respectful thing to do. It's a good thing that young people start playing golf because it teaches them common courtesies that can transfer over to society.

The next point the writer makes is that the atmosphere of golf is "too high and mighty" for him. He says that the country club life is too "prestigious" and the clothing golfers wear doesn't make them any better of a person. Well, golf isn't supposed to be like *Happy Gilmore* where the crowds are yelling and screaming and it turns into a mad house. Golf is a gentleman's game and once again it teaches young people to be respectable human beings. Also, the clothing that golfers wear doesn't make them better people: it's their uniform. Just like basketball players wear tank tops and shorts, golfers wear polos and dress pants because it's their uniform. Coming from a golfer: trust me, I don't wear polos and slacks everywhere I go. I love my sweatshirt and sweatpants as much as any

other high schooler.

His last point was that golfers are rich and have everything they want and that allows them to enjoy the country club lifestyle. That is the biggest stereotype that golf has. Most of the guys on Northwest's golf team come from middle class families and they enjoy the game. You do not have to have a lot of money to play golf, especially if you are a young person. Most golf courses (even country clubs) offer discounted rates and programs for juniors to teach them the game. Golfers are by no means more elite than any other athletes.

Lastly, the writer wraps up his article saying he has never played golf before. He said he could learn the rules and courtesies if he played but doesn't have time to play anywhere in his schedule. I can understand that he wouldn't have time to play golf, but if he has never played the game, who gives him the right to bash the entire sport? I know he is entitled to his own opinion, but he has no idea what you do as golfer and what golf is all about, so don't criticize it if you haven't tried it.

Senior Superlatives

Best Nickname
Taylor Hovie
"Tab"



Best Nickname
Preston
Sundermeier
"Chubs"



Most Likely to
become President
Hannah Klanecky



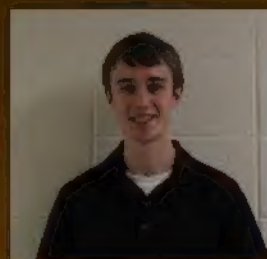
Most Likely to
become President
Alex Stocker



Most Likely to
become an
Evil Scientist
Katelyn Archer



Most Likely to
become an
Evil Scientist
Justin Fay



Most Likely to be
Caught Sleeping
in Class
Megan Heineman



Most Likely to be
Caught Sleeping
in Class
Ryan Gill



Most Changed since
Freshman Year
Bre Dobesh



Most Changed since
Freshman Year
Ashtyn Tuttle



Seniors: Our future is starting to come into focus

(83 responses)

*Voted by the senior class

Most Likely to Have
her own
Reality TV Show
Sarah Rathman



Most Likely to Have
his own
Reality TV Show
Erik Cirila

Most Likely to Win
the Lottery
but Lose the Ticket
Emma Bishop



Most Likely to win
the Lottery
but Lose the Ticket
Brook Brown

Class of 2016

Class Song: "100 Years" by Five for Fighting

Class Colors: **Silver** and **Teal**

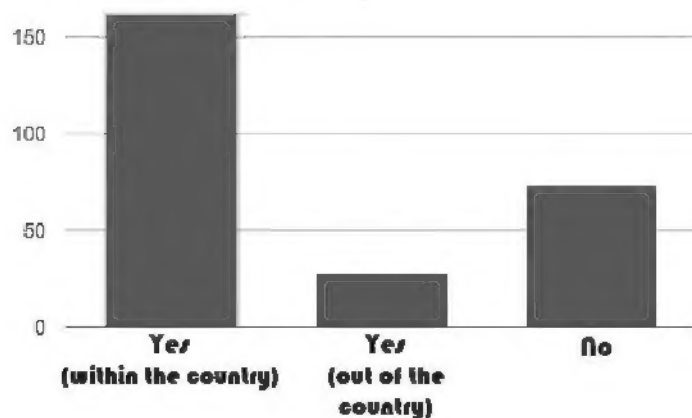
Class Flower: Gerbera Daisy

Class Motto: "We didn't realize we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun."

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE SUMMER?

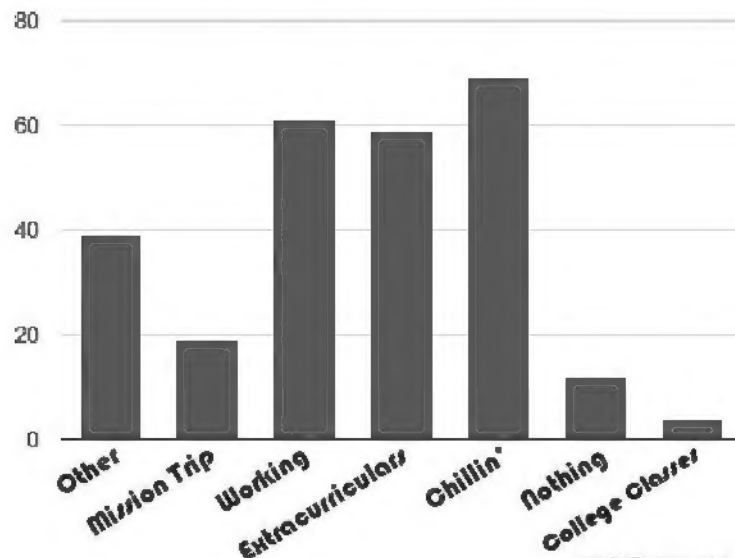
CELESTE THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

ARE YOU TRAVELING?



*OUT OF 266

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?



*OUT OF 266

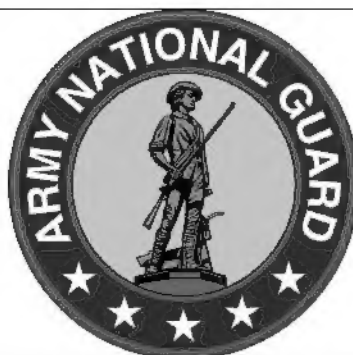
VIKING VOICES

ZACHARY MCVICKER:
Going out of the country



Japan

WYATT STUEVEN:
Traveling in the country



National Guard Base

ABBY MILLER:
Going out of the country



Guatamala

Captain America: Civil War review

AUSTIN FRANCISCO
STAFF WRITER

Captain America: Civil War is directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, and stars Chris Evans as Captain America and Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man. After an incident where several civilians die, the Avengers are split on a decision to have the Avengers be controlled by the United Nations. Meanwhile, the Winter Soldier resurfaces causing Captain America to try and find him.

From the opening action scene and on, this movie was very entertaining. Since Marvel has been able to build these characters over the course of many movies, you actually care about the conflicts that are happening. The movie does a really good job of establishing why each side in the conflict is fighting, which makes it hard to choose which side is right. That makes the fight scenes that much more entertaining as you don't want these characters to fight but they are going to anyway.

Speaking of the fight scenes, the fight scenes are incredible in this movie. While the opening scene was a little choppy in some places, the rest of the action scenes were very clear and you could see what was happening. The stunt work was also very impressive and it looks like many

of the actors did their own stunts. Probably the best fight scene in any superhero movie is the airport fight sequence that has all of the heroes facing each other.

Chris Evans is still great as Captain America as he has to be the pillar of justice that Captain America is while still showing a lot of friendship to the Winter Soldier. But the best performance in the movie belongs to Robert Downey Jr. who probably does the best acting he has ever done



in a Marvel movie. He has a lot of emotional scenes and he is able to show how much his character has grown. Characters like The Falcon and Black Widow also get their time to shine as pretty much every superhero gets at least one really cool moment.

The new characters are also very well done. Black Panther, played by Chadwick Boseman, is a really interesting character. His

character comes from the mysterious fictional land of Wakanda, which makes him shrouded in mystery. Another big character that was introduced in this movie was Spider-Man. Tom Holland is the latest actor to play the character and he is probably the best on screen version of the character. This Spider-Man is much younger than the previous movie versions but Holland is able to portray him as this young, likeable new superhero. These new characters are a great addition to Marvel's roster and it's going to be exciting to see them in their own movies.

One of the few negatives that the film has is the actual villain. While his motivations are clear, he feels like an underdeveloped character and could have been fleshed out some more. Also when Spider-Man is first introduced the tone of the movie goes from the nice dark tone that the movie has established to a much brighter tone. While this is jarring for a little bit, eventually the movie gets back on track and Spider-Man is able to blend with the movie much easier.

All in all, *Captain America: Civil War* is a very enjoyable time. It is probably one of Marvel's best movies. Some details might confuse those who haven't seen the other Marvel movies, but otherwise I would completely recommend *Captain America: Civil War*.

Giving a passing grade to the past year

REILEY HILLMAN
STAFF WRITER

During the 2015-2016 school year, many things happened. The gun to traffic deaths ratio wasn't so great. Less terrorism would be beneficial. China made some changes, although I feel it's going to be hard to recover from. With national equality of same-sex marriage, more people are sure to be satisfied. NASA confirming the presence of water on Mars really quenched my thirst. One thing to be aware of in the fall is the election.

To start out I want to define all the things that left a bad taste in my mouth. With more and more people killed by guns, the deaths by gun has become as common as car accident deaths in the U.S. I believe we need to do something as a nation so that people stop unreasonably kill each other. Being a bit out of control, I'd give gun control an F.

Another thing that left me kind of sickly is the terrorist levels. With ISIS as prominent as it's ever been, we are starting to see more and more citizens of every nation and culture getting radicalised by this terrorist group. According to data from the New America Foundation, a Washington think tank, 2015 was the deadliest

year for Islamic terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. It's hard to decide what to do when there are immigrants who wish to enter America, but at the same time we have our hands tied with the right-wing terrorists we have at home. I'd give the national terrorism a D for being so outrageously a problem, but for a lot of the democratic countries trying the best they can to end the war on terrorism.

Dealing with population growth, China has finally scrapped its one-child policy. China announced in October of 2015 that it would finally end the 36-year-old regulation that limits many couples to having only one child. All being said, the scars will still remain. In the past four decades, hundreds of millions of men and women have been forcibly sterilized per Chinese family-planning policies. The vast majority of people are still scared to speak out and say they feel bitter to this day. I'd give this event an A, due to the new ruling in freedom, and hoping the scars won't last for too long.

I'd say sexuality equality gained some popularity on the menu. Same-sex marriage finally became a right in the U.S. You can have your cake and eat it too with the new decision by congress. Giving the hope of marriage to

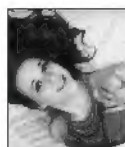
those of non-straight sexuality, I'd give this ruling an A.

The new discovery from NASA really quenched my thirst. NASA confirms the presence of water on Mars. The discovery also sparked some table talk of whether Mars could support life. Giving this new and wonderful discovery a B, I feel as cool as it is that are technology has become so advanced, it doesn't exactly help us find a new home when the sun blows up.

Although the grand opening of the election won't happen until November, I felt the presidential campaign was worth mentioning. With the presidential election, Americans have gone through and are going to keep going through speeches, caucuses, and primaries. Don't buy into those appetizers candidates put out, a lot of it is mostly just bologna. I can't really give the election a rating quite yet because we are still getting served appetizers.

Overall I give this year a B. When we get control of the crisis on terror and gun deaths, I will give it a higher score. Feeling more than satisfied with this year it feels great to reflect on a wonderful plate of events. With all the good things I've experienced, I can't wait for what the rest of the year has in store.

A senior gives her final "TBH" on PDA and ACT



JENNIFER CLEMENT
STAFF WRITER

Dear students at Northwest,
We have finally reached
the end of another school year.

Summer is in the air. Soon we will be surrounded by the smells of freshly cut grass and swimming pools. We will hear crickets in the grass and see fireflies at night. That will all come soon enough. You guys [non-seniors] only have a few more days until those warm summer afternoons. Don't give up yet. You are almost there.

Here is a little bit of advice for not only your last few days of the 2015-16 school year, but for the years to come.

Let's start with the freshmen. You survived

freshman year! Next year you will be sophomores and leaving the comforts of the Freshman Academy. Good luck. That's all I am going to say about that. Just remember to make good choices, be nice to your teachers and elders, stop the PDA (please), and just be smart about things. Do these things, and you will be successful in high school.

Sophomores, I am sure you are tired of hearing this but, take junior year seriously. Take the ACT as many times as possible. Do your best on the NeSA. Pay attention in your normal classes. This will make your senior year so much easier. I know you guys will be fine.





Juniors, You soon will be seniors in high school. This is a big step in your life, and it is a wonderful feeling. It is like the last lap of a

race, but don't let it get to your head. Not all of you will have off periods. Take them seriously. Get stuff done during your free time. Fill out as many scholarships as you can, and do them early. It's free money for college. For those who say senior year is easy, don't always listen to them. Senior year is different for everyone. Just do your best.

Seniors, I honestly do not have any advice for you. All we can do now is take this next step together. Let's do this.

All I can say, is thank you for the last four years. Thank you teachers, staff, and students. It has been totally awesome.

Jennifer Clement, Former Co-Editor, signing off.

 <p>Capricorn 22 December- 20 January</p> <p>You will radiate with positive, generous, and warm feelings. Romance might be apparent this month. You should take pride in your appearance and attitude for once in a long time.</p>	 <p>Aquarius 21 January- 19 February</p> <p>This month is full of relaxation for you, aquarius. You might crave more solitude and alone time at home. Family will play a big role in your life and get in touch with your emotions and theirs.</p>	 <p>Pisces 20 February- 20 March</p> <p>You will be more intellectually alive, and you'll do things like writing, brainstorming, and conversing. Starting stimulating conversations will lead you to new alliances this month. Your most important relationships will get a much-needed boost.</p>
 <p>Aries 21 March- 19 April</p> <p>You will form a simple plan to achieve your goals this month. Your work this month could be cleaning up financial or budget messes and continuing trying to achieve a certain goal.</p>	 <p>Taurus 20 April - 20 May</p> <p>You will become more bold and outgoing this month than you already are. Exciting new romances could arrive. You also might come off as stubborn strongly in a future situation.</p>	 <p>Gemini 21 May-21 June</p> <p>You should take time out of your busy schedule to sort through any feelings or emotional baggage you have. Traveling is in your thoughts lately and you might act on it. Try not to make promises you can't keep and watch for signs of guilt this month.</p>
 <p>Cancer 22 June- 23 July</p> <p>This month is going to be a good month for you. It will be full of fun, exciting, and cheerful events. This month, you will be building a better you; you will focus on making yourself a better person.</p>	 <p>Leo 24 July- 23 August</p> <p>This month is going to be one full of new opportunities for you. New things will be coming your way that, even though you might not think too much about it, you should definitely look into.</p>	 <p>Virgo 24 August- 22 September</p> <p>Your plans this month may go a little haywire, but in that confusion use some of the free time that you are gaining to try something new. You could find something fascinating and fun that you might not otherwise do.</p>
 <p>Libra 23 September- 22 October</p> <p>This month, things may seem to be moving at an unbelievably fast pace. Just slow down and analyze things more. You might find joy in things that you would have otherwise missed from moving so fast.</p>	 <p>Scorpio 23 October- 22 November</p> <p>This month is going to be an active one for you. You will be spending a lot of time with people at different events. Things that you may have thought of as not your style may become more intriguing to you this month.</p>	 <p>Sagittarius 23 November-20 December</p> <p>This month you are going to realize more about your future and what is to come. Some opportunities will rise that will have you thinking about your future as well as the people close to you.</p>
<p>CELESTE THOMPSON AND MITCHELL EVANS STAFF WRITERS</p>		

Exchange Student Spotlight

BRENDEN HOLLING
CO-EDITOR

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

VIKING SAGA

PAGE 11

Alberto Caprioli

Age: 17

Country: Italy

Activities: IBA, football, soccer, indoor soccer, church activities, prom king.

Plans for after Northwest: Going to college somewhere in USA.

Advice for other exchange students: Have fun and enjoy as much as you can.

Kristin Iversen

Age: 18

Country: Norway

Activities: Cross country and Soccer

Plans for after Northwest: Finish my last high school year in Norway

Advice for other exchange students: Don't ever give up!

Genta Tsuchida

Country: Japan

Activities: Trap Shooting

Genta had an enjoyable senior year at Northwest, and had a fun time in the United States. While here, Genta won awards in trap shooting.

Leire Olo

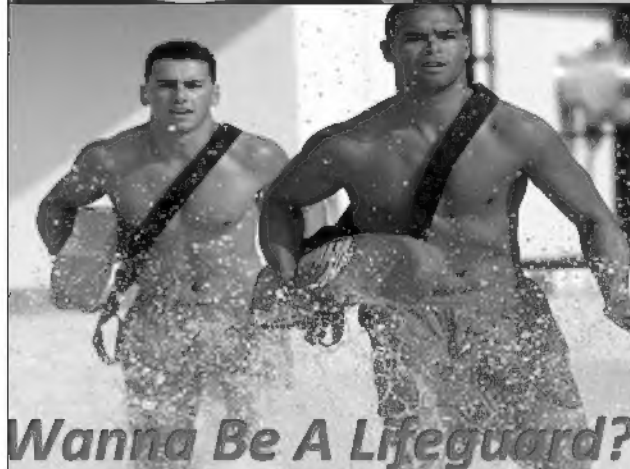
Age: 16

Country: Spain

Activities: Cross-country, basketball and soccer.

Plans for after Northwest: Two more years of high school in Spain.

Advice for other exchange students: Get involved in the school activities since it is much easier to make friends.



Wanna Be A Lifeguard?

The City of Grand Island is accepting applications for lifeguards at Island Oasis and Lincoln Pool! For more information and to apply, visit: www.grand-island.com/seasonaljobs.



"New" City lifeguards will be reimbursed for the cost of the lifeguard class. To sign up for a lifeguard class, call: GI Parks & Recreation Department at (308) 385-5444 ext. 290.

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